

Governor's Forest Health Council

***2010 Wildfire Season***



Scott Hunt

Arizona State Fire Management Officer

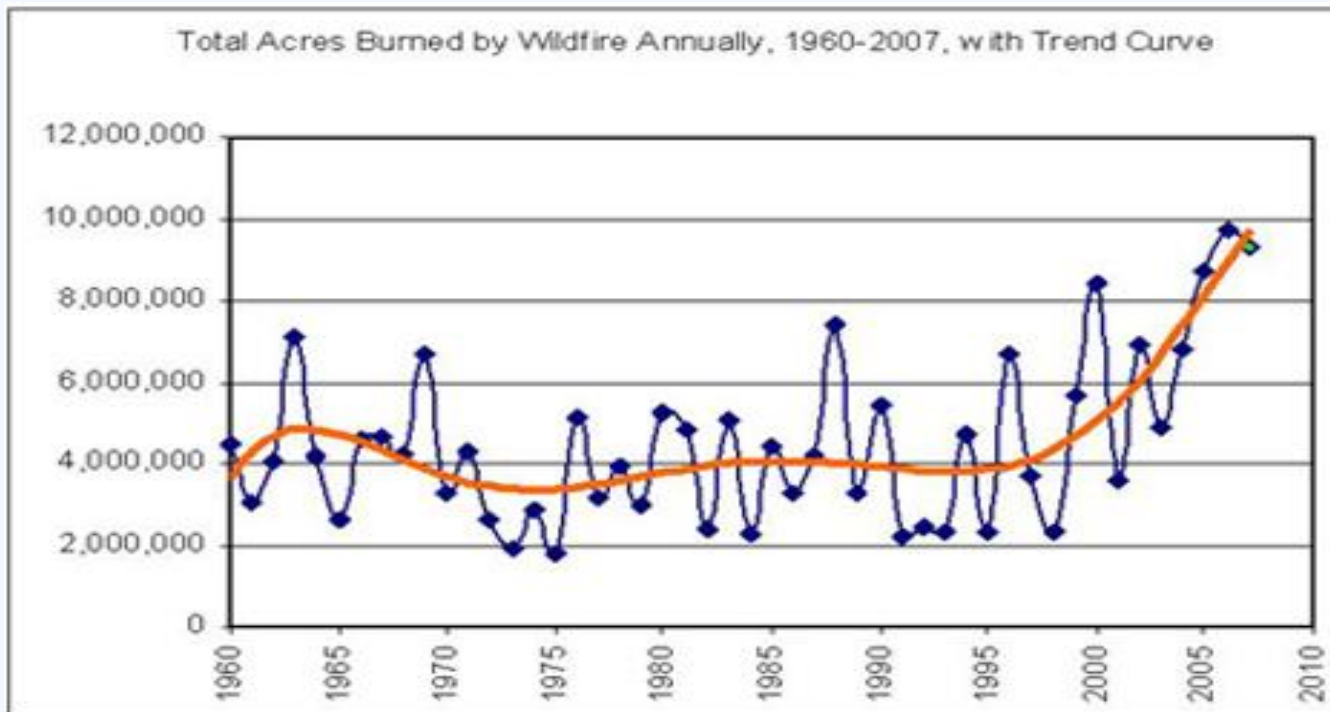
***Arizona State Forestry Division***

# *Briefing Topics*

- 2010 Wildfire Assessment
- Wildfire Trends
- Wildfire Resources
- Wildfire Mitigation



# *U.S. Wildfire Acreage Burned is Increasing*

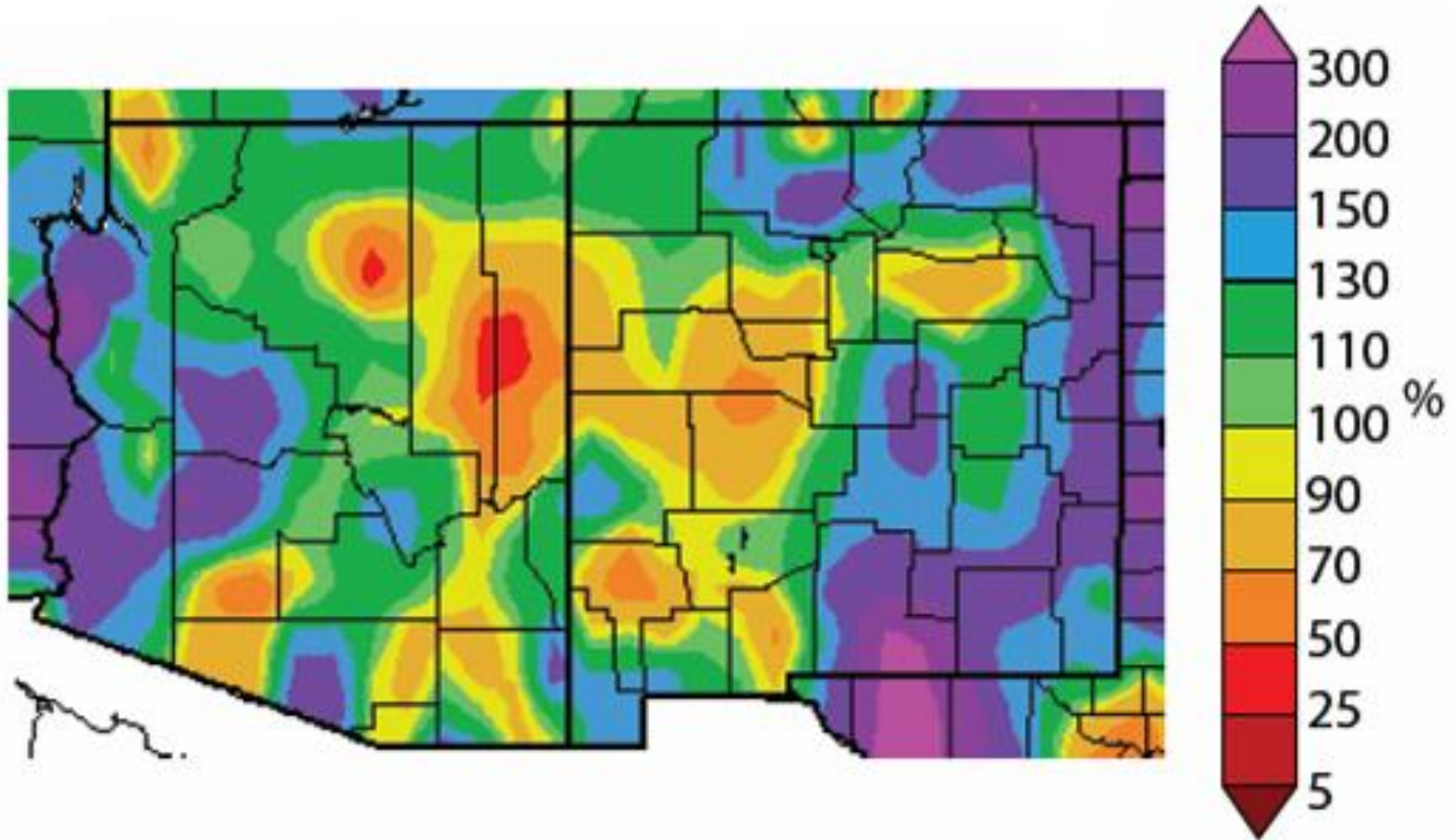


National Interagency Fire Center Wildland Fire Statistics

*Arizona/New Mexico*

*Oct 1, 2009 to March 17, 2010*

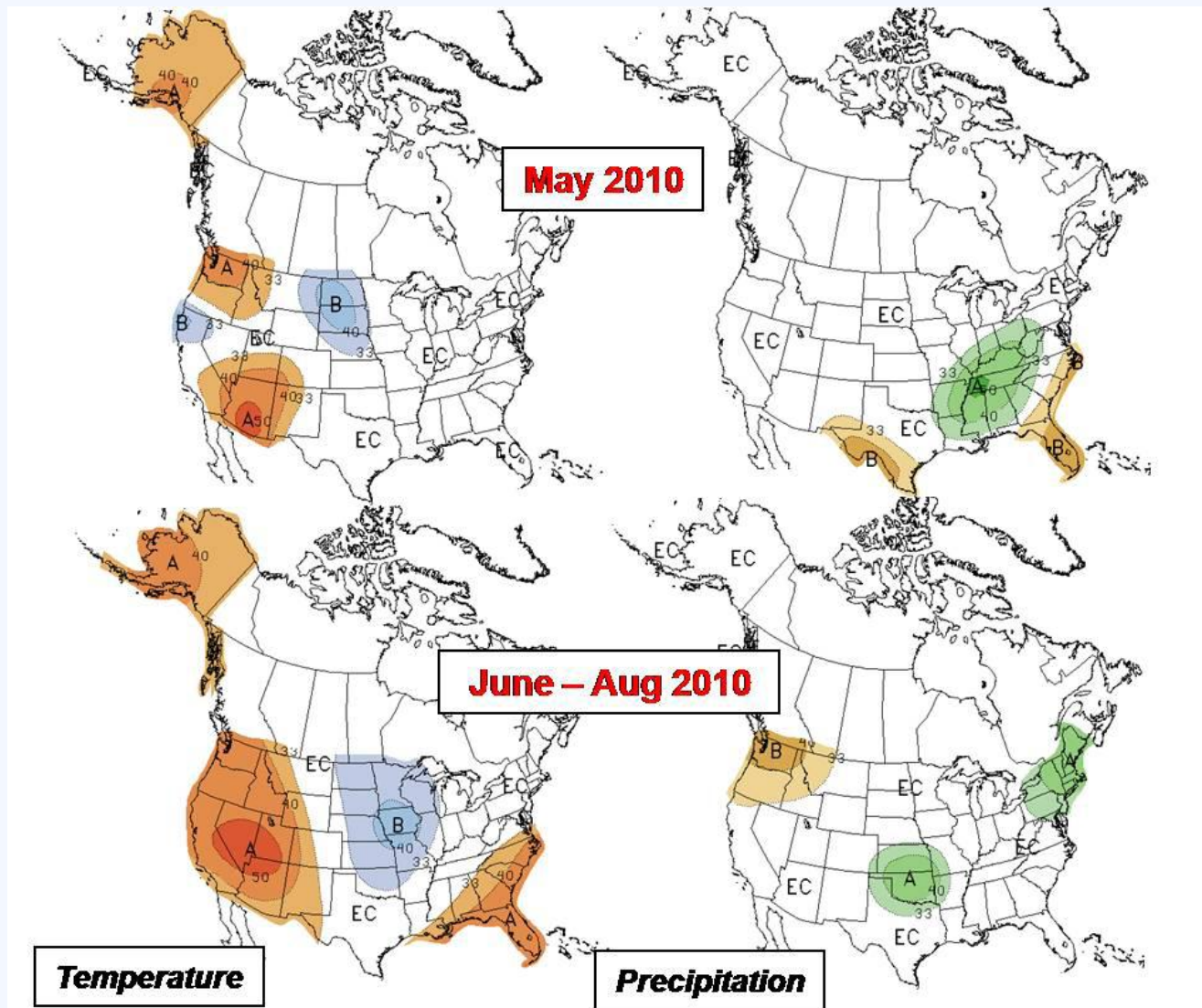
*percent of average precipitation (Interpolated)*



- Parts of Arizona received three times more precipitation than normal
- 14th wettest winter on record in 115 years

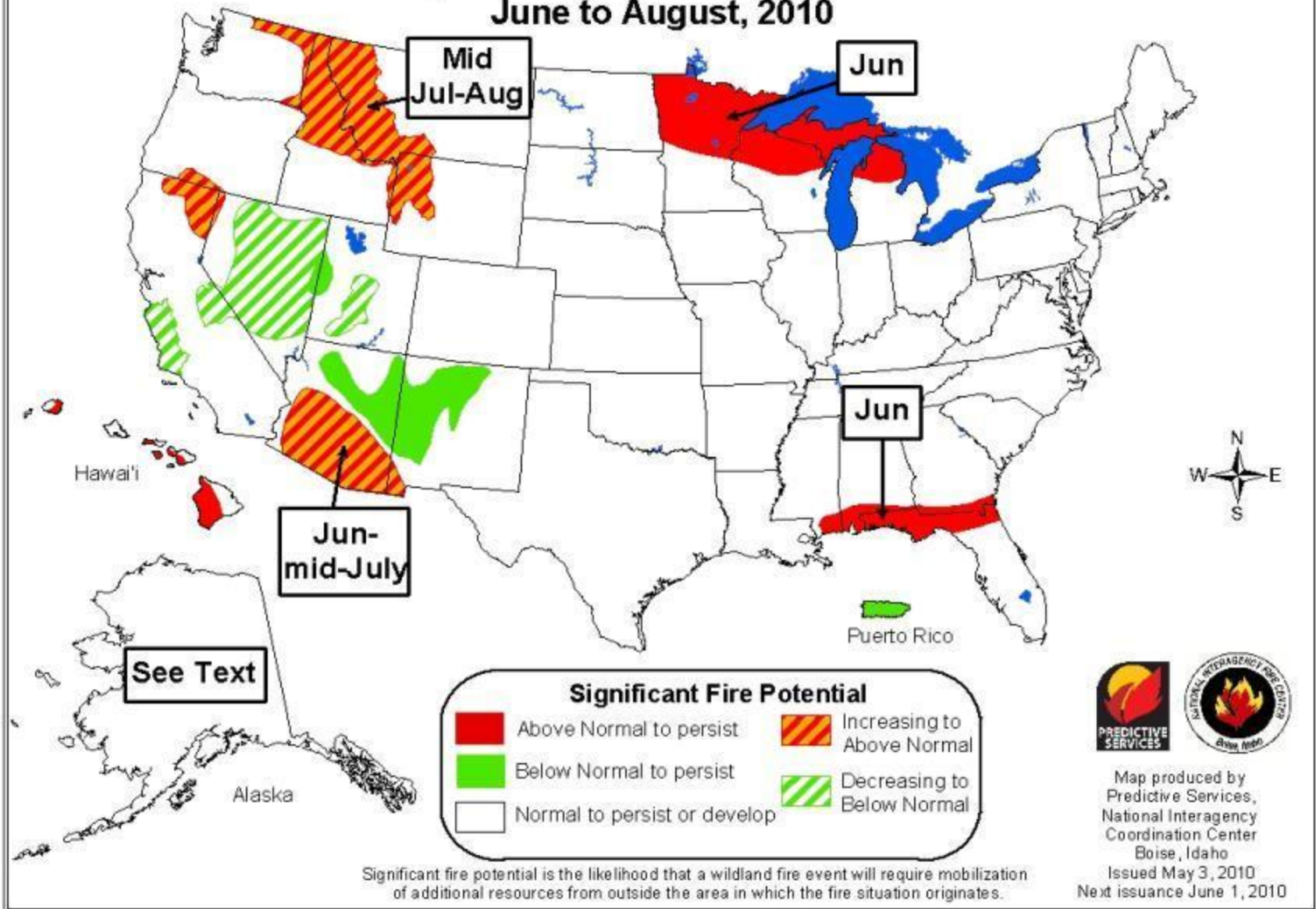
Source: CLIMAS SW Outlook and National Climatic Data Center

# *Summer Temp & Precip. Predictions*

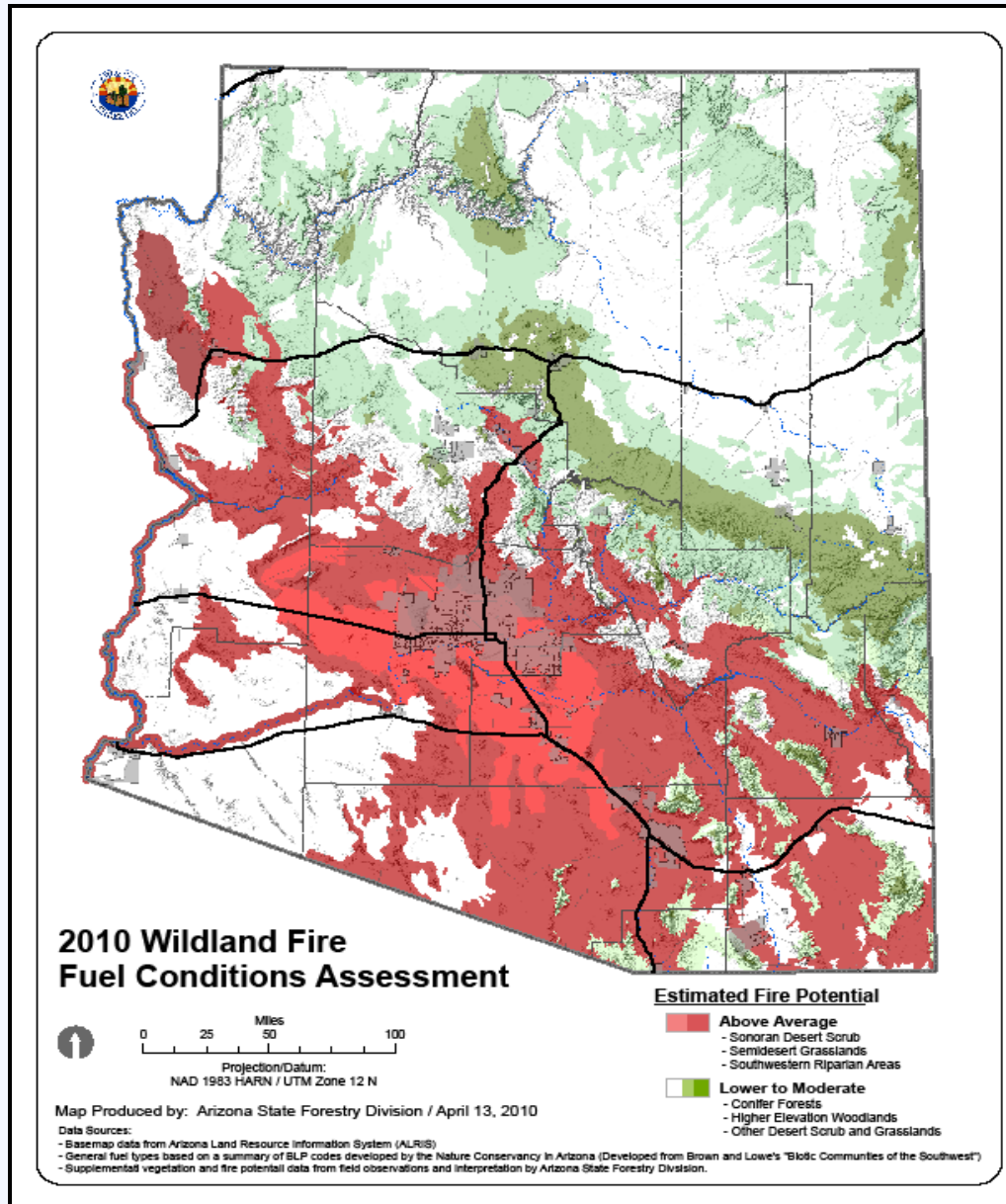




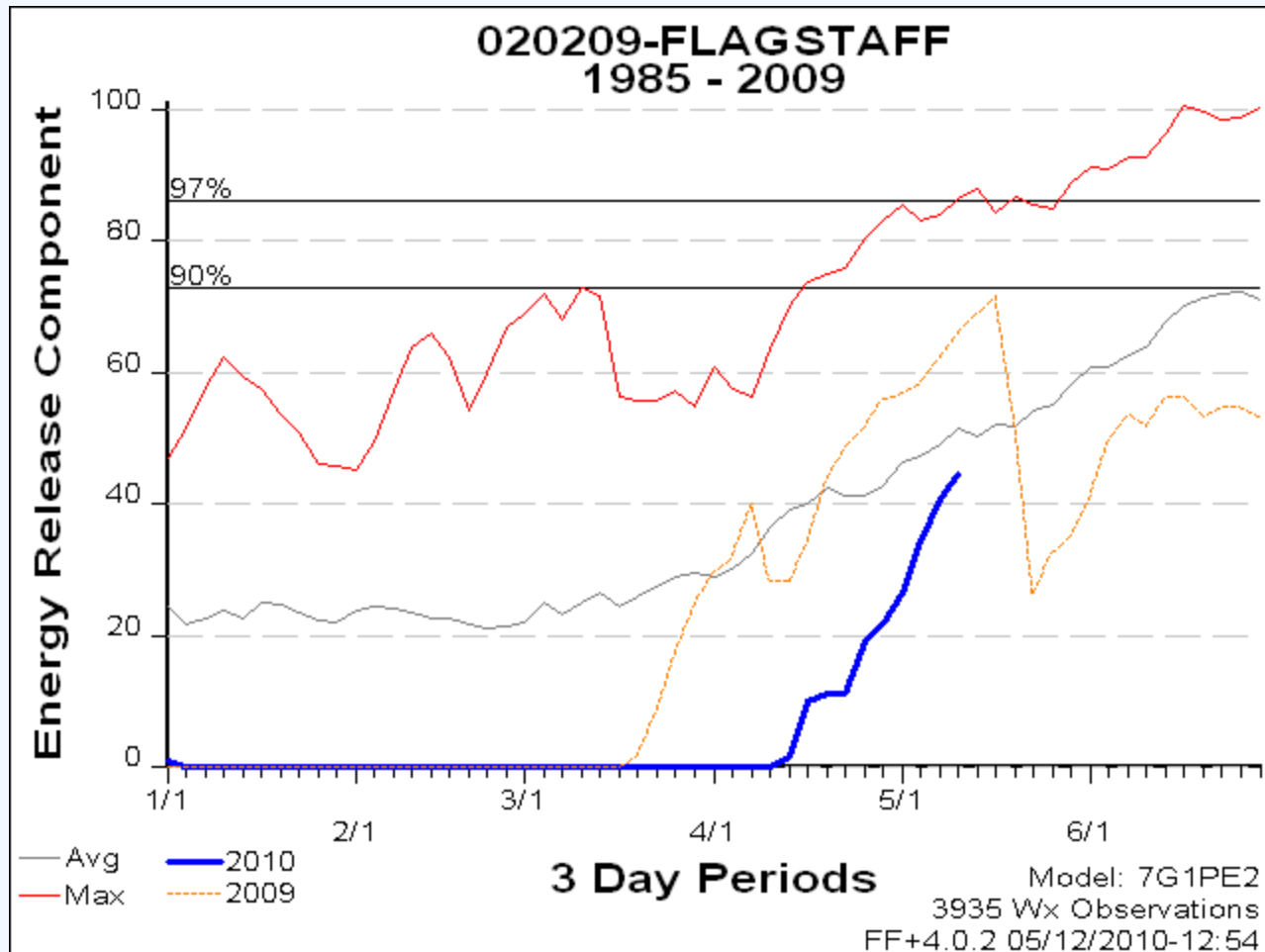
# Seasonal Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook June to August, 2010



# *Fuel Conditions Assessment*

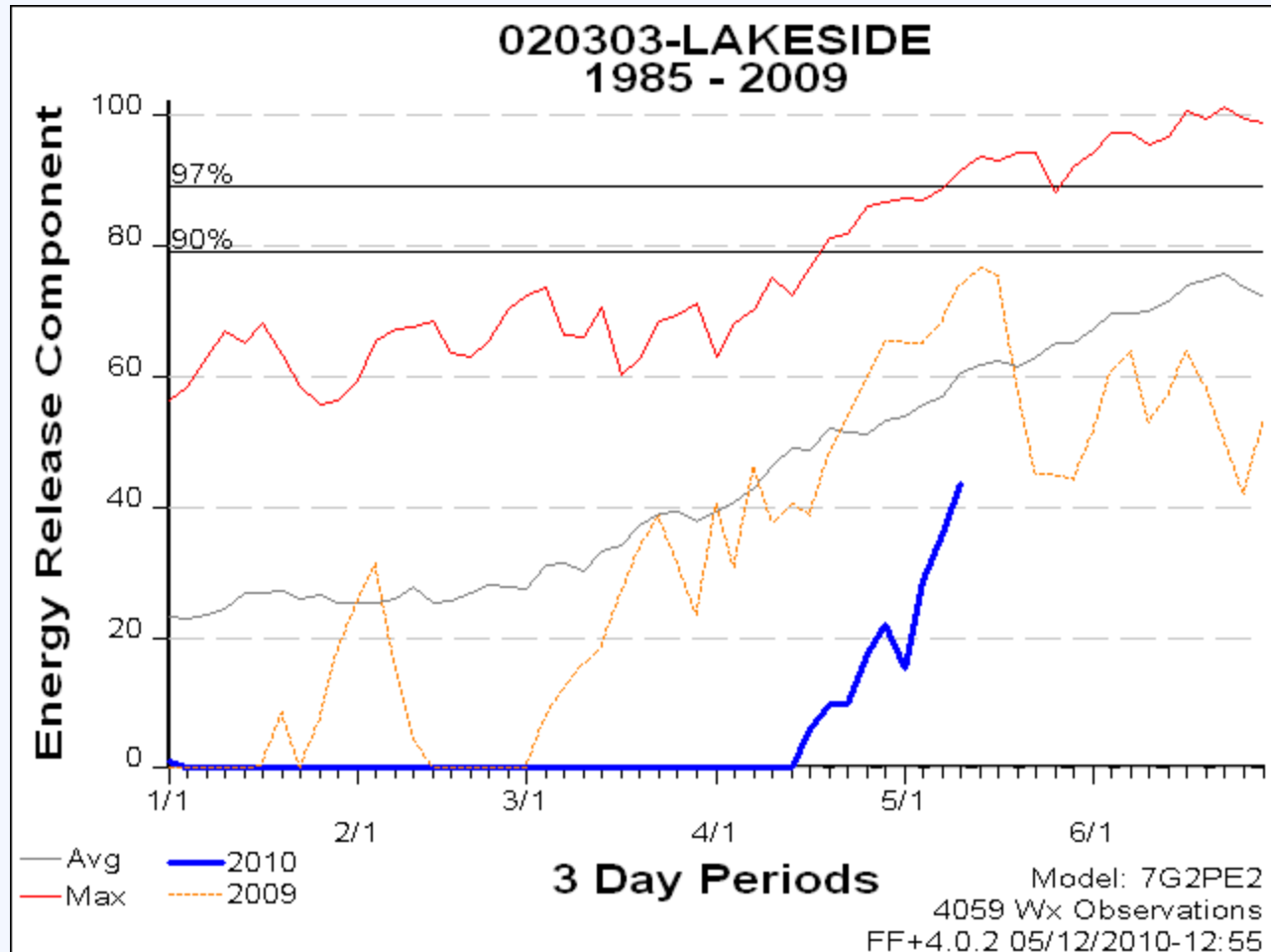


# Energy Release Component

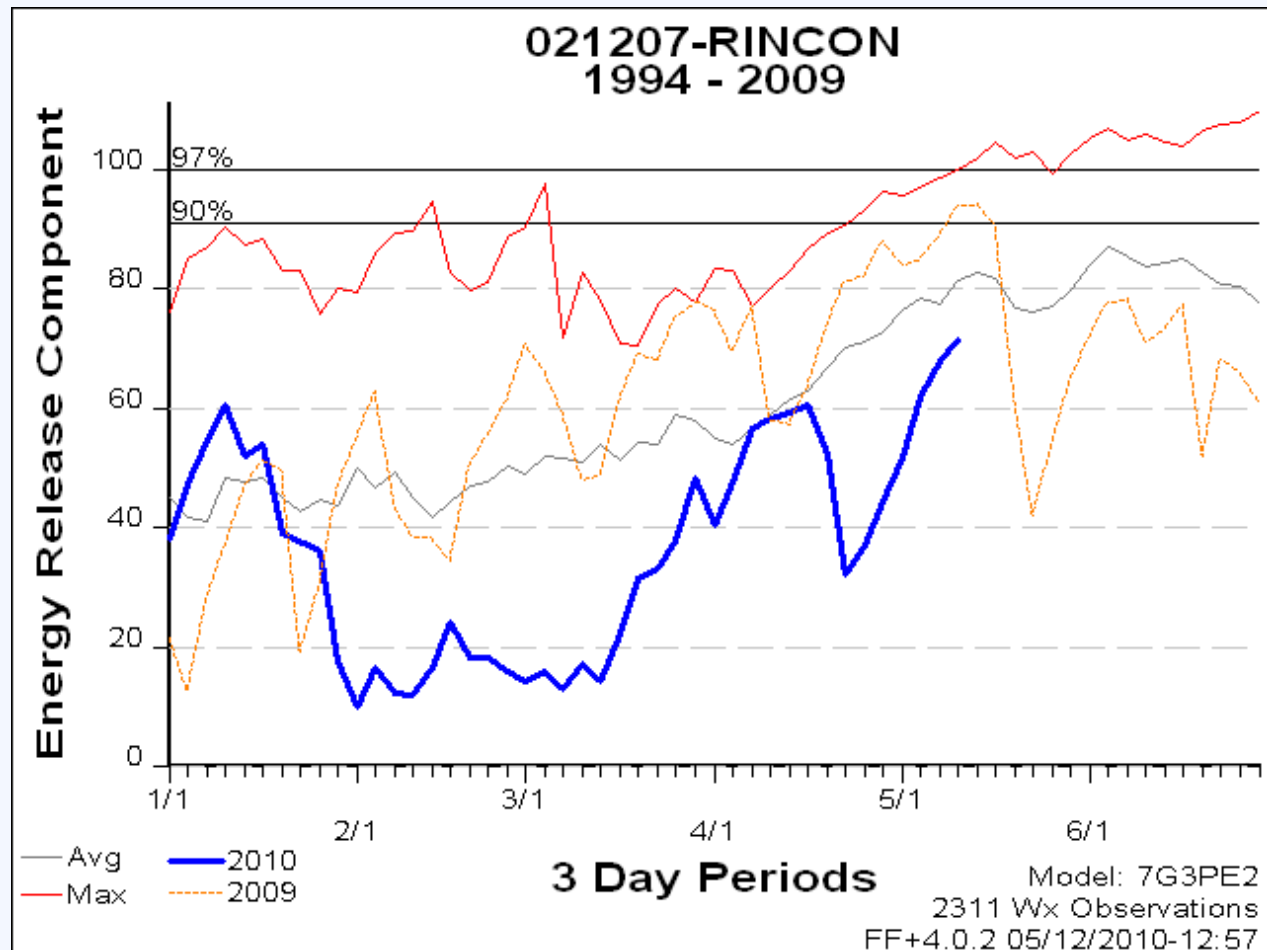




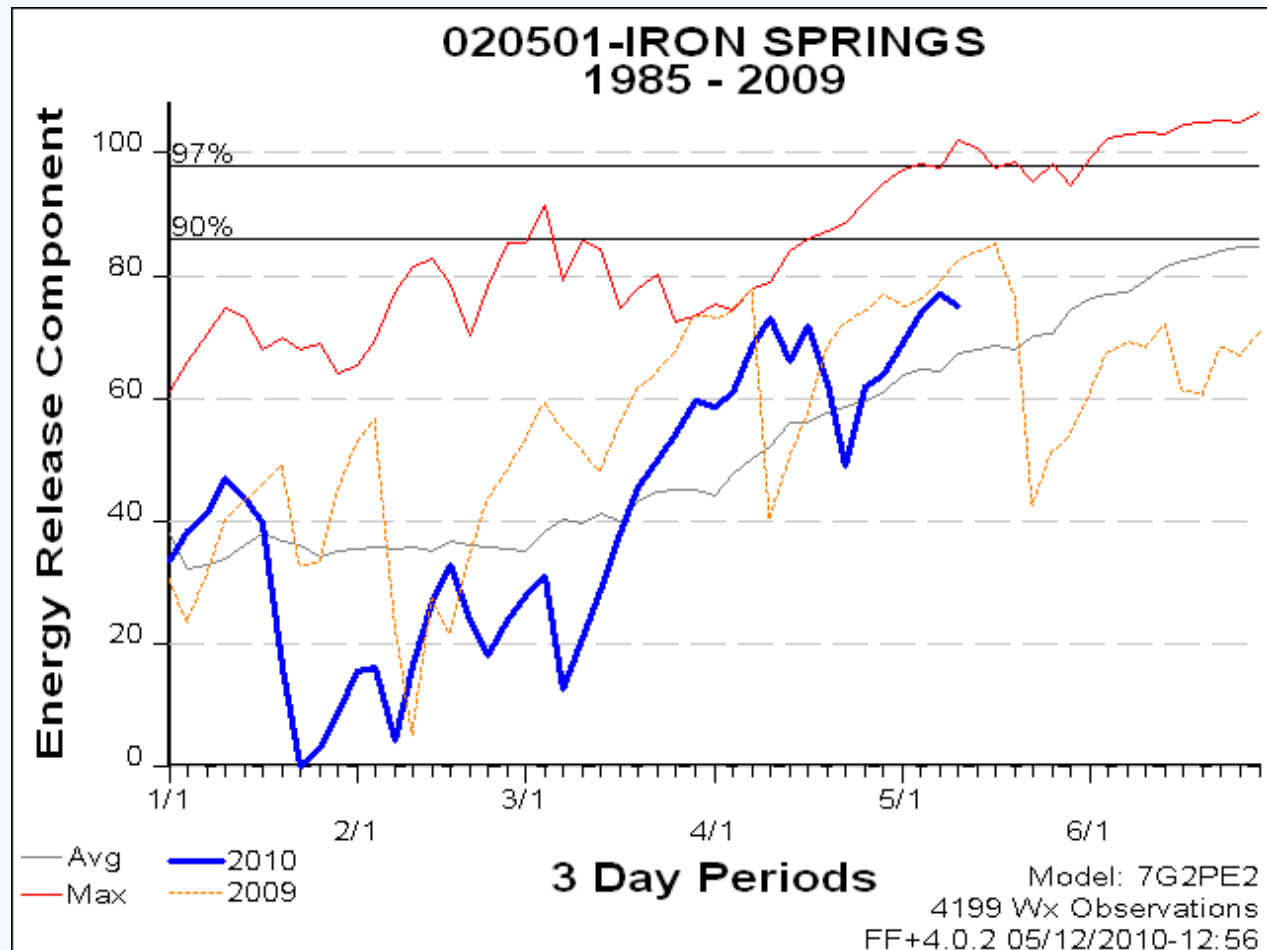
# Energy Release Component



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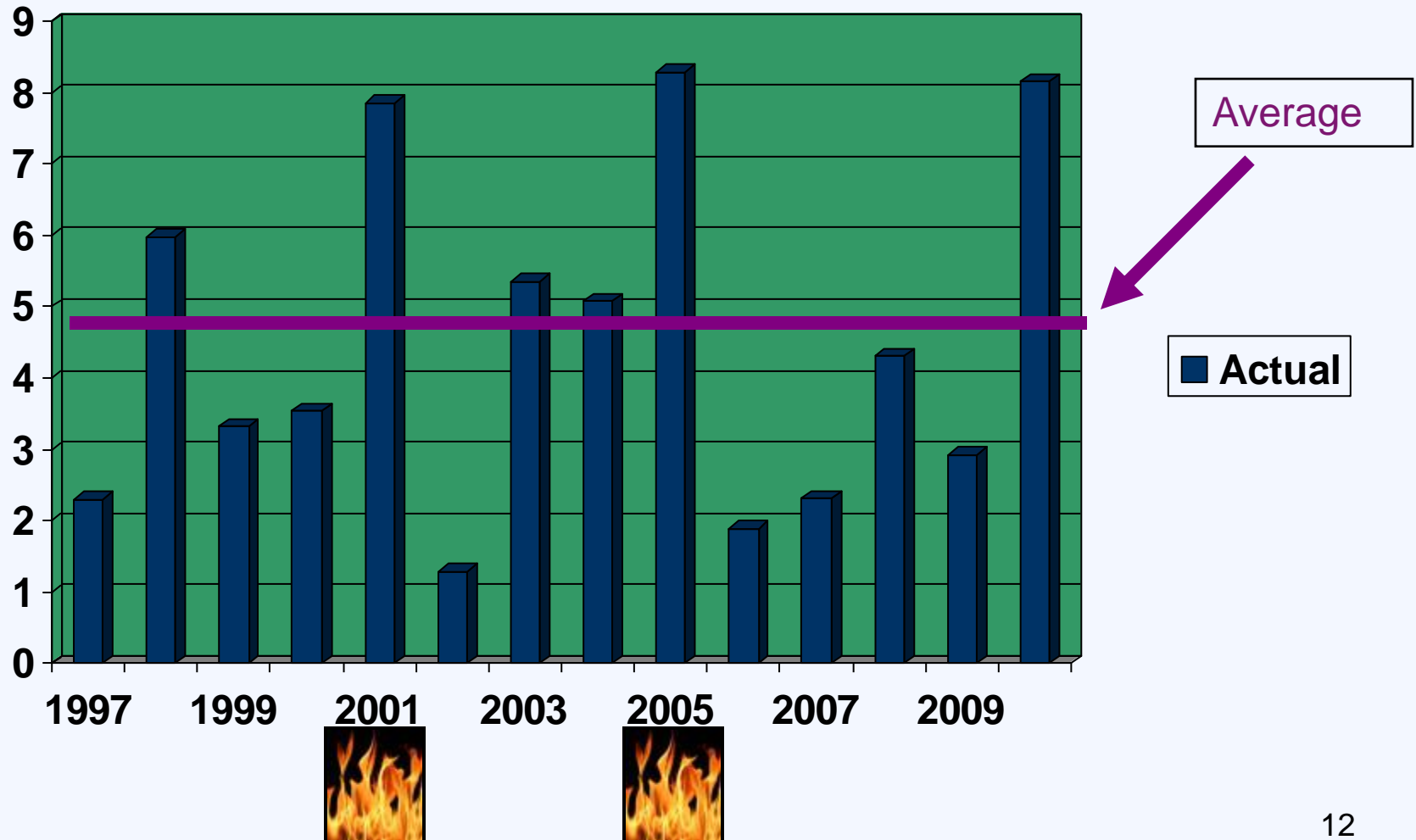


# Energy Release Component

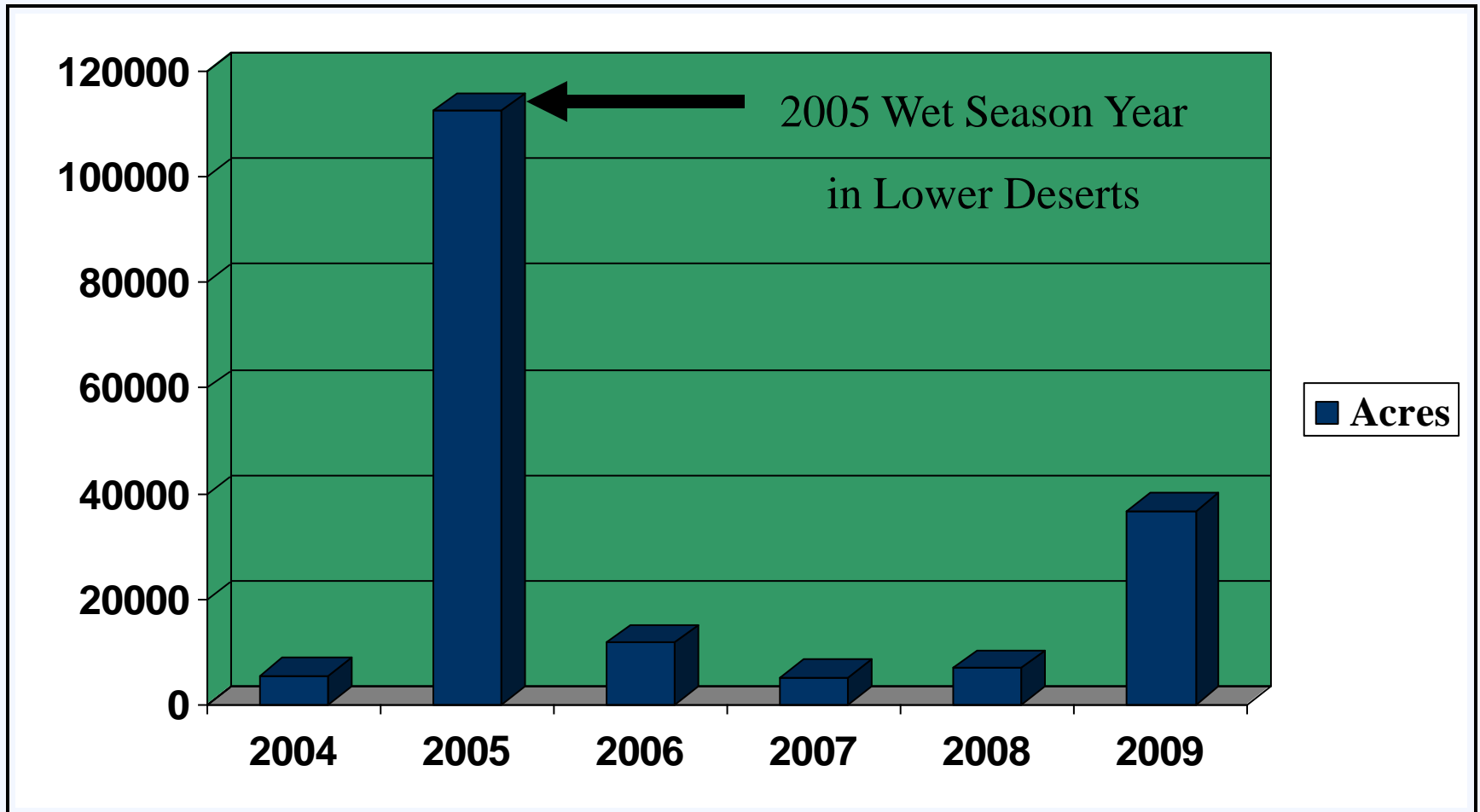


# *Phoenix Area*

## *Precipitation (Inches): October to March*



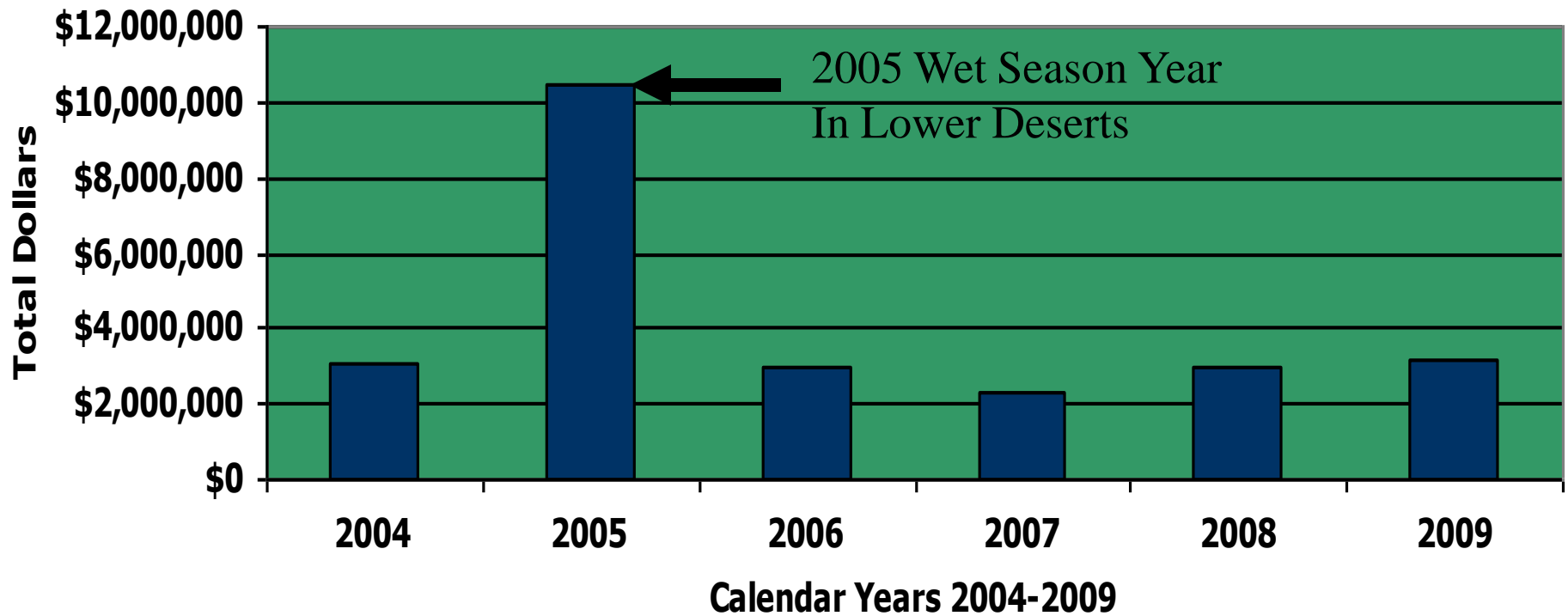
# *State Responsibility Acres Burned by Year*





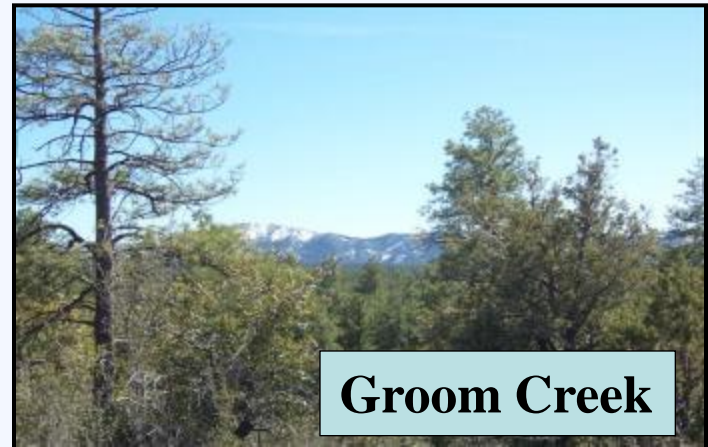
# *State responsibility*

## *Wildfire suppression and preparedness costs*



# *Wildfire Potential: Higher Elevations*

- Abundant winter precipitation
- Forest and chaparral vegetation types will maintain above average dead and live fuel moistures
- Later start for fire season



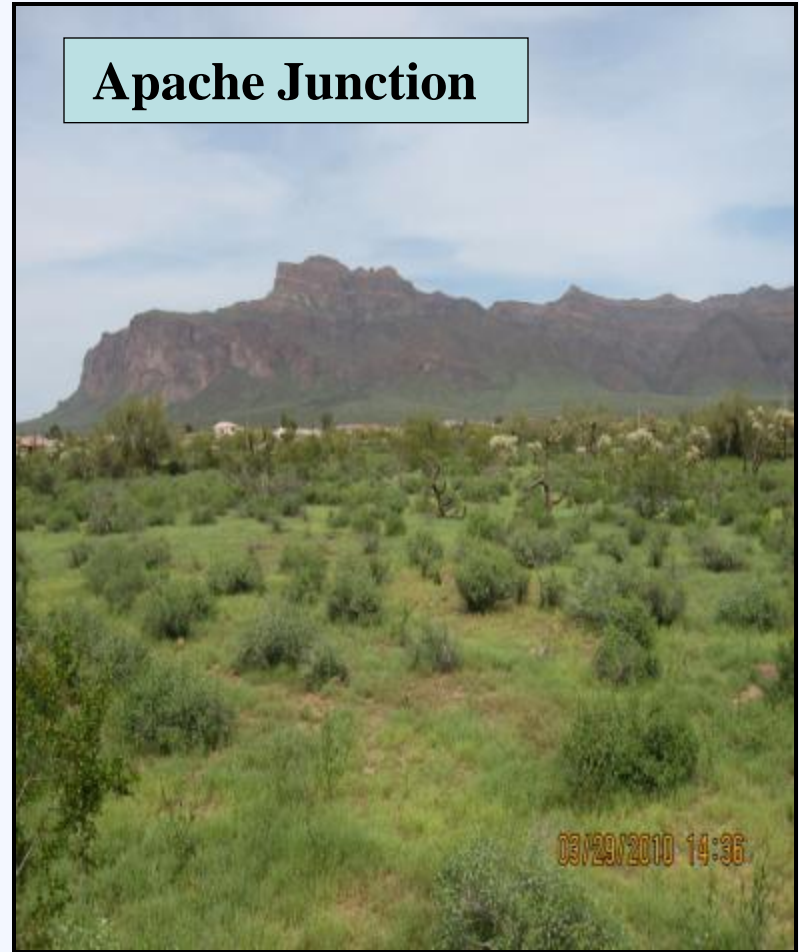
**Groom Creek**



# *Wildfire Potential: Lower Elevations*

- In many locations, continuous bed of perennial and annual grasses and weeds
- Above average fire potential in the Sonoran desert and grasslands due to that “carpet” of continuous fine fuels

**Apache Junction**



*North of Phoenix*

***Comparison:  
2009 (Dry Year) vs. 2010 – (Wet Year)***



*Northeast Phoenix*  
***Comparison:***  
***2009 (Dry Year) vs. 2010 (Wet Year)***



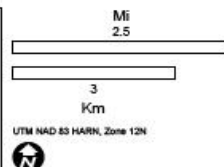


# Potential Fire Spread in Grassland



Fire Spread Map

S. Hunt  
4/10 Conditions: June Day, 112 Degrees, 10 MPH Wind





**Black Canyon City 4/4/10**





03/26/2010 16:56

S of Wikieup 3/26/10



**E of Hwy 91 N of Douglas Cochise Co. 3/24/10**



*Salt Cedar – Grass on the banks this year  
may carry fire into the river channel.*



08/15/2009 12:13

**Quail Fire – Martinez Lake Yuma Co.**



An aerial photograph showing a massive wildfire. A thick, billowing column of dark grey and black smoke rises from the fire, filling much of the sky. Below the smoke, patches of orange and red fire are visible on the ground. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green and brown fields. In the bottom right corner, the white wing of an aircraft is visible, indicating the photo was taken from an airplane.

*Salt Cedar exhibits  
tremendous fire behavior!*

**Ethan Fire – Gila River Reservation 7/08**





**“Buffel Grass Adobe Mtn 4/08  
Southern Aspect**







04/10/2008 10:16

**“Buffel Grass Adobe Mtn 4/08**





**Highway 95 North of Quartzite 4-4-10 Sahara Mustard Weed Invasion**



# *Areas of Concern*

## **Graham, Greenlee and Cochise Counties:**

Bisbee, Sierra Vista, Sunizona, Elfrida, Sunsites-Pearce, and Double Adobe

**Maricopa County:** The majority of the county has above average potential for wildfires

**Mohave, Yuma, La Paz:** Colorado & Gila River Corridors, Golden Valley

**Pima County:** Altar Valley, Arivaca, the Santa Rita Experimental Range, the Empire Mountains, Sonoita, and Catalina

**Pinal County:** Oracle, Kearny, Dudleyville, Mammoth, San Manuel, and Oracle Junction, Apache Junction, Queen Valley, Queen Creek, and Superior

**Santa Cruz County:** Nogales, Patagonia, Tubac, and Sonoita

**Yavapai and Gila:** Areas below 4000 feet - Tonto Basin around Roosevelt Lake and Dripping Springs, Cordes Junction, Mayer, Verde Valley, Peeples Valley, and Sonoran Desert areas such as Black Canyon City, Congress and Wickenburg





## Arizona State Forestry Division

Office Locations and Staffing



Map Created By:  
Office of the Arizona State Forester  
April 12, 2010

Data Sources:  
Base map data from the Arizona Land Resource  
Information System (ALRIS)  
Forestry Office and Fuel Crew data  
from Arizona Forestry Division

### Land Management



Scale: 1:3,000,000

0 25 50 100  
Miles

Map Projection/Datum:  
NAD 1983 HARN / UTM Zone 12N

The Arizona State Forestry Division makes no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

*State  
Responsibility:  
22 million acres  
of state and  
private lands  
(white and blue  
shaded areas)*

# *Integrated Interagency Approach*

- Core Division staff and Seasonal employees
- (12) 20-person Forestry Division/wildfire inmate crews
- Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS) as fire conditions warrant
- Ready access to:
  - 1,000 local fire engines
  - 1,800 local firefighters
  - Substantial national resources



# *Wildfire Mitigation in Arizona*

- Implementing “Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona’s Forests”
- Supplemental Federal Funding
  - o Hazardous Fuels Grants
    - o \$8.27 million
  - o ARRA Hazardous Fuels and Biomass Grants
    - o \$2.5 million
- Work with communities to mitigate risk from wildfires:
  - o Community Wildfire Protection Plans
    - o 26 plans covering 100+ communities
  - o Firewise Communities
    - o 37 communities





# *20th Anniversary: Dude Fire*

- Eleven firefighters entrapped while fighting the fire following downburst
- Six firefighters from Perryville Prison perished
  - One correctional officer
  - Five inmate crew members
- 63 homes destroyed
- Ten miles NE of Payson on Tonto National Forest and private land



Dude Fire, June 1990



Burn area 3 years ago

